

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Brian Gustafson on 11/3/2009.
3. Please replace all previous version of claims with the following claims:
 1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 - receiving one or more inputs, the one or more inputs requesting recording of one or more of a plurality of jobs, each job identifying particular programming content to be recorded;
 - determining one or more solutions for each job of the plurality of jobs based on a program schedule, the solutions including null solutions and non-null solutions, each non-null solution for a particular job requiring a set of resources over a set of intervals for recording the job, wherein one or more combinations of solutions for the plurality of jobs require a number of resources greater than a number of resources available at a particular interval, resulting in a scheduling conflict;
 - resolving the scheduling conflict including automatically determining a plurality of plans for performing jobs, each plan having a combination of solutions including a particular solution for each of the plurality of jobs, wherein resources used by the plurality of jobs for the combination of solutions in each plan are less than or equal to the number of resources available at each interval;

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scoring each plan of the plurality of plans, where scoring each plan includes determining whether the plan includes a null solution to a job where the null solution to a job is a solution in which the job is not recorded and if so modifying the score for the plan based on having the null solution; and

automatically determining a preferred plan based on the scores, wherein the scores are based on components of each of the jobs, the components including at least one element selected from the group including a recording time, a recording quality, a type of program, a relative position in an order a job of the two or more jobs was input, an inclusion of bonus time and a keyword; and

automatically using a specified the preferred plan of the one or more plans to determine a recording schedule for a personal video recorder system using the scoring of the one or more plans.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a priority for each job from a user.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4]] 1, ~~further comprising:~~
~~the step of assigning where scoring each plan scores~~ includes assigning scores based on a user assigned priority for each job.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Original) The method of claim [[3]] 1, further comprising:
ranking the one or more plans based on the ~~assigned~~ scores.

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8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the step of determining one or more plans includes determining two or more plans.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving a trigger;
in response to receiving the trigger, determining one or more new solutions for the plurality of jobs; and
determining a new plan including one new solution for each job such that the solutions use less than or equal to the number of resources available.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein:
the step of receiving the trigger includes receiving an updated program schedule from an input source.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein:
the step of receiving the trigger includes receiving an updated program schedule from an input source, the input source selected from a group including a satellite signal, a cable signal, an antenna signal, and a telephone line signal.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein:
the step of receiving the trigger includes receiving a user input.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
providing a user with the two or more plans; and
receiving a first user input that indicates a preferred plan.

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15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising:
determining from the first user input a user priority for at least one job.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:
receiving a second user input adding a new job;
determining one or more new solutions for the new job; and
determining a new plan including one of the one or more new solutions,
wherein determining the plan is based in part on the first user input.
17. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the step of determining one or more plans includes determining the one or
more plans based on a pre-defined user preference.
18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
filtering the one or more plans including keeping a first plan for
presentation to a user and ignoring a second plan so that the second plan is not
presented to the user.
19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18, wherein:
the first plan has a first set of solutions for the plurality of jobs and the
second plan has a second set of solutions for the plurality of jobs, wherein at least one
solution for at least one job of the first set of solutions is preferred over a corresponding
solution for the at least one job of the second set of solutions.
20. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:
scoring the one or more plans based on the pre-defined user preference;
and
filtering the one or more plans such that at least one plan with a higher
score than other plans of the one or more plans is presented to a user and at least one

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plan with a lower score than other plans of the one or more plans is not presented to the user.

21. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
presenting the one or more plans to the user.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein:
presenting the one or more plans to the user includes presenting the plans in a first category and a second category, the first category including zero or more plans having no null solutions and the second category including zero or more plans having at least one null solution.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the step of receiving the one or more inputs requesting the plurality of jobs includes receiving an input request to record a program.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein:
the step of receiving the one or more inputs requesting the plurality of jobs includes receiving an input request to accomplish a task.

25. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving one or more inputs, the one or more inputs requesting recording of one or more of a plurality of jobs, each job identifying particular programming content to be recorded;

determining one or more solutions for each job of the plurality of jobs based on a program schedule, the solutions including null solutions and non-null solutions, each non-null solution for a particular job requiring a set of resources over a set of intervals for recording the corresponding job, wherein one or more combinations of solutions for the plurality of jobs require a number of resources greater than a number of resources available at a particular interval, resulting in a scheduling conflict;

resolving the scheduling conflict including automatically determining one or more plans for performing jobs, each plan having a combination of solutions including a particular solution for each of the plurality of jobs, wherein resources used by the plurality of jobs for the combination of solutions in each plan are less than or equal to the number of resources available at each interval, where determining each plan includes scoring each job of the plurality of jobs and identifying a high scoring solution for a first job of the plurality of jobs and identifying solutions for each other job of the plurality of jobs compatible with the high scoring solution of the first job, where scoring each job includes determining whether the plan includes a null solution to the job where the null solution to a particular job is a solution in which the particular job is not recorded and if so modifying the score for the job based on having the null solution; and

automatically determining a preferred plan based on the scores, wherein the scores are further based on components of each of the jobs, the components including at least one element selected from the group including a recording time, a recording quality, a type of program, a relative position in an order a job of the two or more jobs was input, an inclusion of bonus time and a keyword; and

automatically using ~~a specified~~ the preferred plan of the one or more plans to determine a recording schedule for a personal video recorder system.

25. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MengYao Zhe whose telephone number is 571-272-6946. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday Through Friday, 10:00 - 8:00 EST. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng-Ai An can be reached at 571-272-3756. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2195